



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads to Home Invasion Robberies While Impersonating Police Officer

A 29-year-old man who pretended to be a police officer has pleaded to charges related to a home-invasion robbery in which a woman was sexually assaulted, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Deputy District Attorney Amy Carter said Wesley Robert Stepp of Los Angeles pleaded no contest yesterday to two counts of home invasion robbery and one count of sexual battery by restraint in case SA084148.

Stepp was immediately sentenced to 10 years in state prison.

His codefendant in the case, Eric Leonard Thorpe, 42, pleaded no contest to first-degree burglary and was sentenced to two years in state prison.

Stepp met the female victim on Jan. 24, 2013 at an El Segundo hotel room. He pushed her to the ground, handcuffed her and told her he was a police officer, while Thorpe claimed to be his "partner officer," the prosecutor said.

Stepp then demanded money to not arrest her. When the victim said she didn't have any money, he sexually assaulted her, the prosecutor added.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles Police Department, Robbery-Homicide Division and the El Segundo Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.